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BYE-LAWS

OF THE

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY

OF

CANADA.

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JUN 13 1935

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for attaching name

CONSTITUTION

AND

BYE-LAWS

OF THE

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY OF CANADA.

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It had long been desired by many friends of the African race to have an ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY for UPPER CANADA, with its head-quarters in Toronto. Several attempts had been made to accomplish it, but without success. The passage of the atrocious Fugitive Slave Bill gave a new impulse to the friends of justice, and of sympathy for the oppressed. It seemed impossible to witness the arrival, in Canada, of so many sufferers under that law, without being convinced of the duty of crying aloud to our neighbours across the Line, to stay their hands from prosecuting a system of such iniquity, and of inviting and urging them, by every consideration arising from our common Christianity, to put a stop to it for ever, by the abolition of Slavery. It is matter for sincere joy to every friend of liberty and of universal philanthropy, that the first steps have at length been taken in this great cause; and in laying before their fellow-citizens, and others at a distance,

the following short account of the formation of the **UPPER CANADA ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY**, the Committee earnestly request the support of the Public to its objects.

The Public Meeting for organising the Society was held in the City Hall, on Wednesday, the 26th February, 1851, **HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR** presided. It was one of the most enthusiastic and numerous Assemblies ever held in Toronto.

The Rev. Dr. WILLIS having opened the Meeting with Prayer, the first resolution was moved by Rev. Mr. McCLURE, seconded by Rev. Prof. ESSON, and carried as follows:—

1st.—That Slavery, that is, the wanton and forcible bringing into bondage, and retaining indefinitely in that state, of rational beings, is an outrage on the laws of humanity, and of the Bible; and that the continued existence of the practice on this continent is just cause of grief, and demands our best exertions, by all lawful and practical means, for its extinction.

It was moved by Rev. Dr. WILLIS, seconded by Mr. PETER BROWN, and carried:—

2nd.—That, entertaining the feelings of brethren and friends to the inhabitants of the neighbouring States, [for the most part united to us by a common origin and common language,] and disclaiming all desire to intermeddle officiously with their internal affairs, we feel we but take the privilege of our common humanity, in asserting that the Slavery enforced under their laws is not to be confounded with ordinary oppression, however severe, either political or domestic, civil, military, or naval; but is the forced servitude in perpetuity of the helpless poor, unaccused, untried, and uncondemned; imposed on them by a power which

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they cannot resist, supported by laws in which they have no voice. These laws—grievously aggravated by the Fugitive Slave Bill—are at open variance with the best interests of man, as endowed by our Great Creator with the privilege “of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,”—privileges and rights always inalienable, except when forfeited by crime charged and proved.

It was moved by Rev. Mr. LILLIE, seconded by Rev. Mr. ROAF, and carried:—

3rd.—That this Meeting heartily bids God-speed to the noble and ever-increasing band of Christians and Patriots in the United States—the truest friends, in this particular, of their country,—who publicly plead without fear or favour, the cause of their enslaved fellow-subjects, by all constitutional and Christian means, pursuing this object with singleness of aim, and not mixing it up with ulterior and irrelevant designs.

It was moved by Mr. PLUMMER, seconded by Rev. Mr. GEIKIE, and carried:—

4th.—That a Society be now formed, to be called “The Anti-Slavery Society of Canada,” the object of which shall be to aid in the extinction of Slavery all over the world, by means exclusively lawful and peaceable, moral and religious, such as the diffusing of useful information and argument, by tracts, newspapers, lectures, and correspondence, and by manifesting sympathy with the houseless and homeless victims of Slavery flying to our soil.

It was moved by Captain STUART, seconded by Mr. T. J. SHORT, and carried:—

5th.—That a Committee, now to be named, shall be appointed, with suitable officers, who shall conduct the business of the Society, have power to make bye-laws, and shall meet on an early day for that purpose—three to be a quorum.

## RULES.

### I.

That this Association be called "THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY OF CANADA," and have for its object the promotion of right principles upon the subject of Slavery, and co-operation with similar Societies already formed, in diffusing information, and seeking to awaken greater zeal in religious bodies in regard to this momentous question.

### II.

That all persons paying Two SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE per annum shall be entitled to be Members of the Association.

### III.

That the Society shall hold an Annual Meeting, at which the proceedings of the past year shall be reported and the account of Funds received and disbursed shall be submitted.

### IV.

That the business of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee appointed by the Annual Meeting.

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## V.

That the Committee shall meet on the first Monday of each Month for the prosecution of business, such Meeting to be announced previously by the Secretaries ; who may also, with the consent of the President, or, in his absence, of their own accord, convene Extraordinary Meetings of the Committee, as occasion may require ; three to form a quorum.

## VI.

That application for Subscriptions be made to the friends of this cause, in the City of Toronto and elsewhere, as soon as possible after the Annual Public Meeting.

## VII.

That a Course of Lectures be delivered Annually by Ministers of the Gospel and others, on the subject of SLAVERY, so as to meet prevalent fallacies on the question, opposed to Scripture as well as humanity.

## VIII.

That this Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless after notice of such proposed alteration or amendment has been given One Month previously.